Chapter 21 — Group Encounter — #7

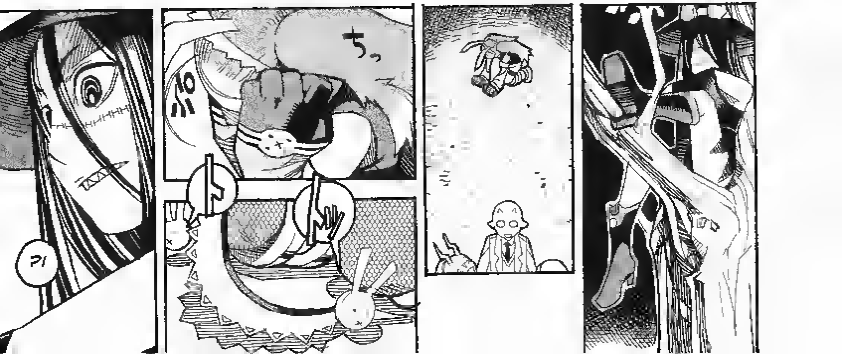
FIGHT
OVERRRRRRR!
The winner
is Gaur!
ガッ!

Huh?

—
Mi-tsuki
It's your loss
—
Hat-ter?

Oh
That's right! She was cheating!
Someone was controlling Gaur's right glove.
What about the glove?
You know, the glove! Remote-controlled glove, it's a rare item.
So where is it?
Huh?
It was lost
You destroyed it quite nicely.
B-but-
You saw it too, right? Gaur was being controlled by somebody
There's no concrete evidence.
And I don't feel like testifying.
Ah

I pity you
Mi-tsuki
Think hard on how you got yourself into this mess
Nobody's going to stand up for you
They're not even going to listen
CRY


?!

Yay Gaur, yay!
Whoa!
?!
?!
Um Gaur's suuuper angry
×◎&%@$
Oh well. I'll just have to cut the tree down.

Uh...
Hold on, I'll do it
Huh?
OK
7

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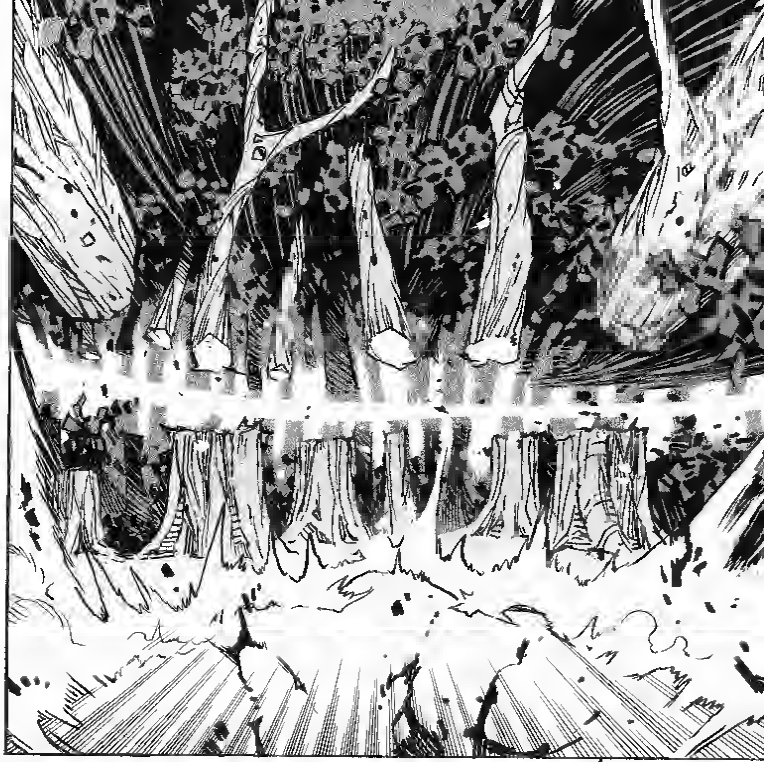
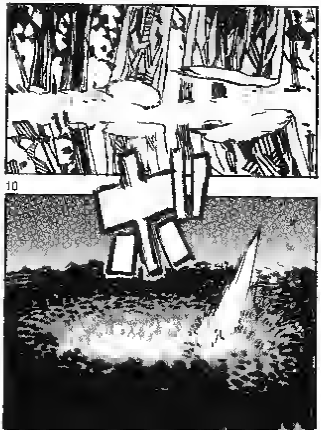
--This is bad!
Run for it!
?!
Hey, look!

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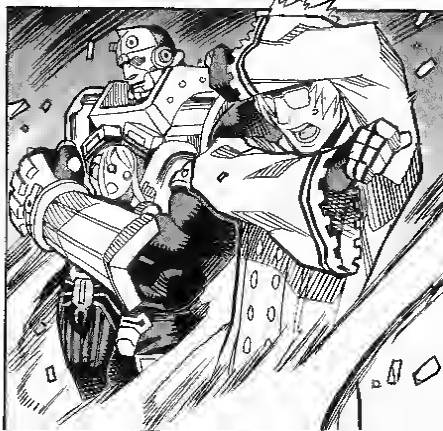
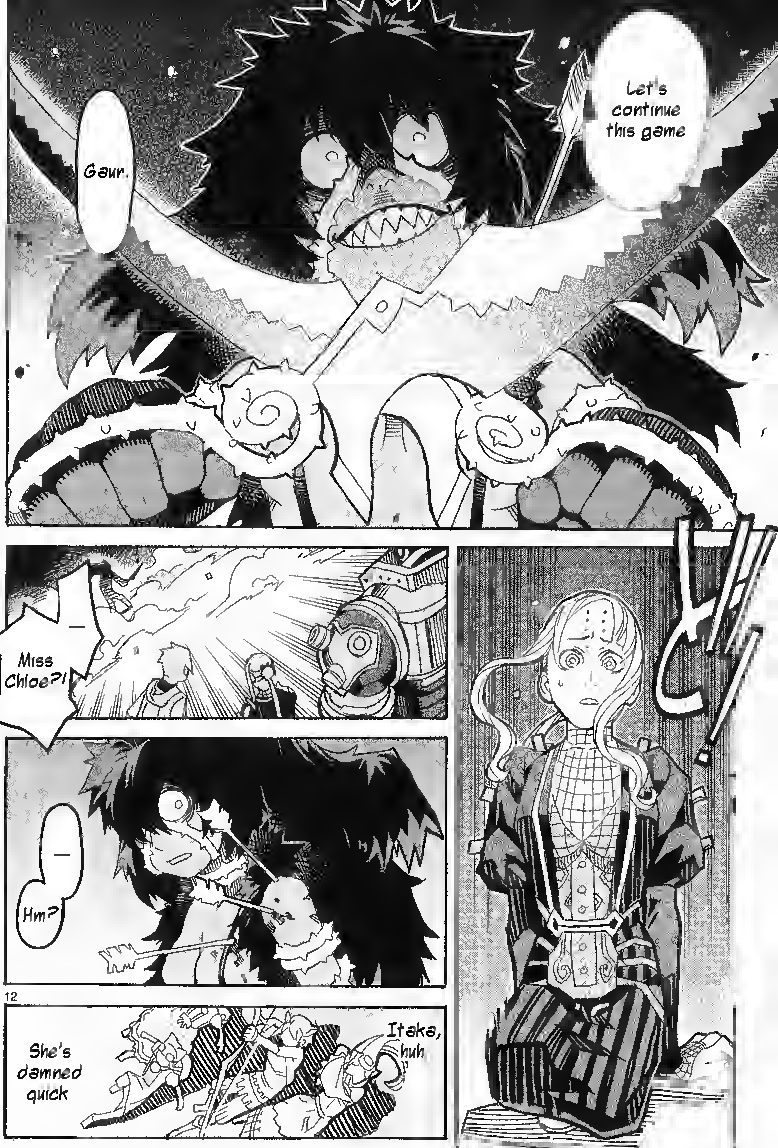
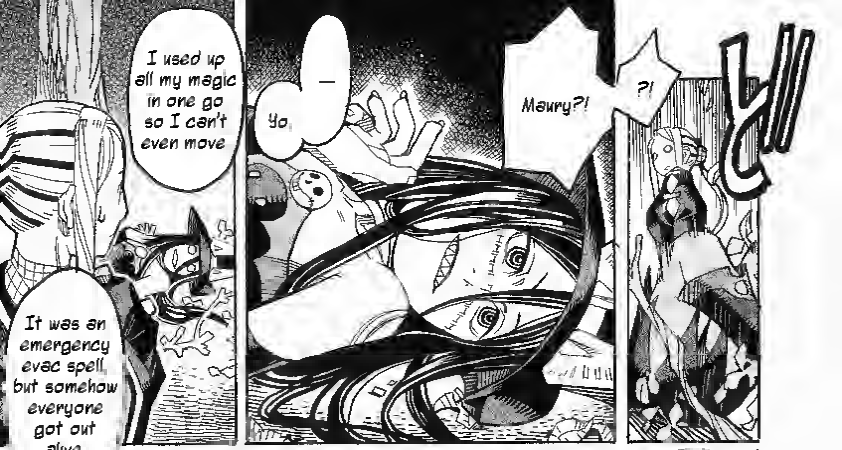


オオオ
Ow.


Let's continue this game
Gaur.
Miss Chloe?!
Hm?
Ah!!
She's damned quick
Iteka, huh


I used up all my magic in one go so I can't even move
It was an emergency evac spell, but somehow everyone got out alive.
—
Yo.
Maury?!
?!

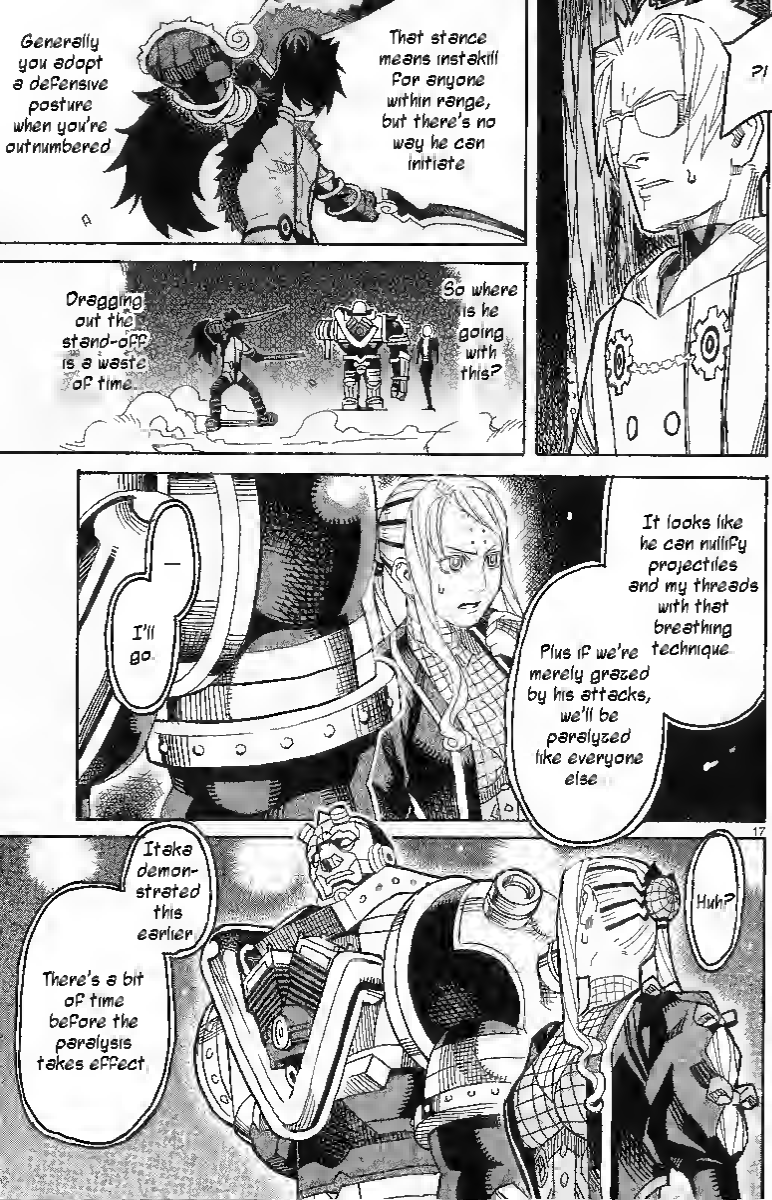
?
I couldn't avoid the curse part though.
The rest is up to you

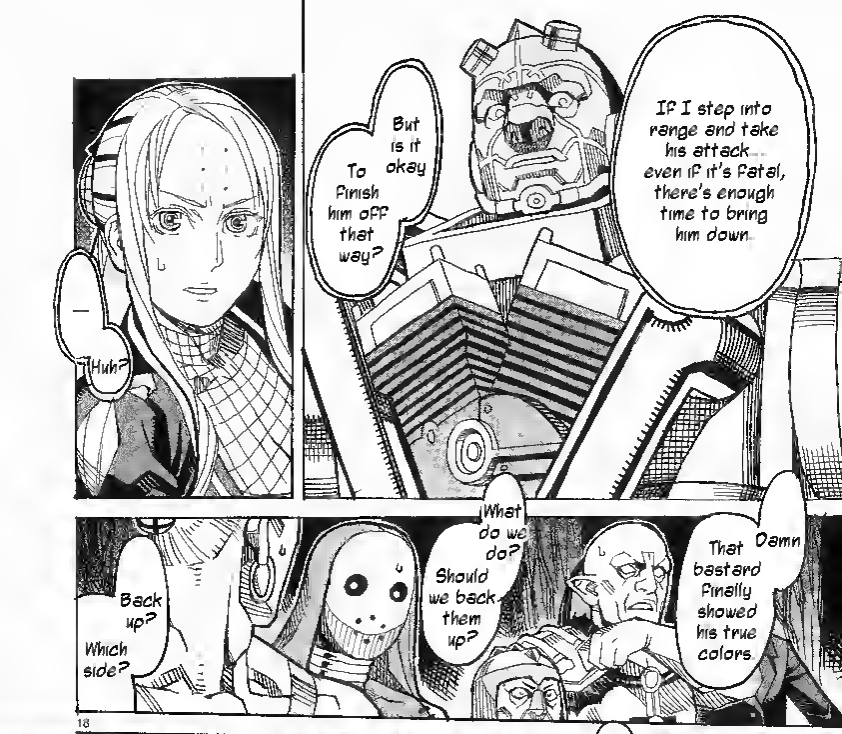
Guh.
...
Bluh.
Ack-!
Whe?

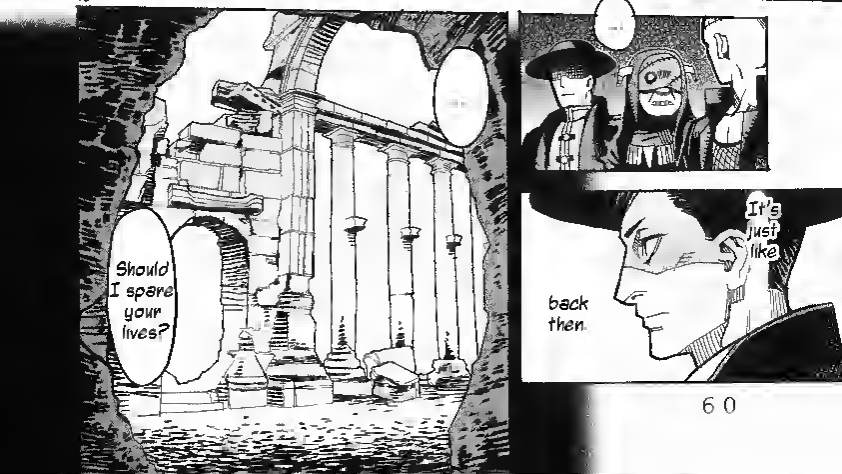
Well whatever
I'll finish you off for good
There they go
Not dead
14
YAAAAAAAH!

He!

Huh.
I've heard of you, Engine Man.
The rumor mill's going wild about you, outside.
16
Y'know, I heard something from Tramp
You guys made a new steppam with Gaur, huh?
Those people died offline and all that crap
But you're still here fuckin playing house?!
Facing both of you at the same time sucks.
But I'll respond appropriately.

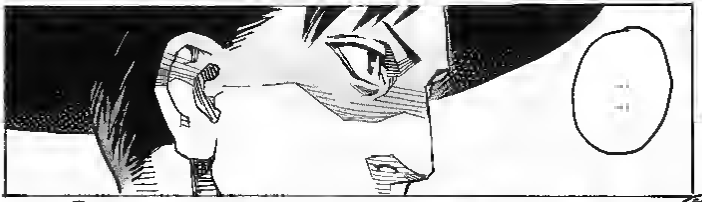

Generally you adopt a defensive posture when you're outnumbered
That stance means instakill for anyone within range, but there's no way he can initiate
?!
Dragging out the stand-off is a waste of time.
So where is he going with this?
It looks like he can nullify projectiles and my threads with that breathing technique.
Plus if we're merely grazed by his attacks, we'll be paralyzed like everyone else.
—
I'll go.
17
Huh?
It take demonstrated this earlier.
There's a bit of time before the paralysis takes effect.


Huh?
If I step into range and take his attack... even if it's fatal, there's enough time to bring him down.
But is it okay to finish him off that way?
Damn
That bastard Pinelly showed his true colors.
What do we do?
Should we back them up?
Back up?
Which side?
18


Should I spare your lives?
It's just like back then.

You guys look like trash and fight like trash. Your avatars are utter trash.
But y'know.
Even trash has its uses.
I'm the boss starting today.
Shut up and fall in line.
You're getting a special invite to the place everyone's talking about, the place everyone wants to go.
Thing is, everyone there is certified trash. Lower than you guys.
You can walk all over those shitstains and show them the true meaning of pain.

It's not such a bad deal for you guys either
Got anything to add, former leader?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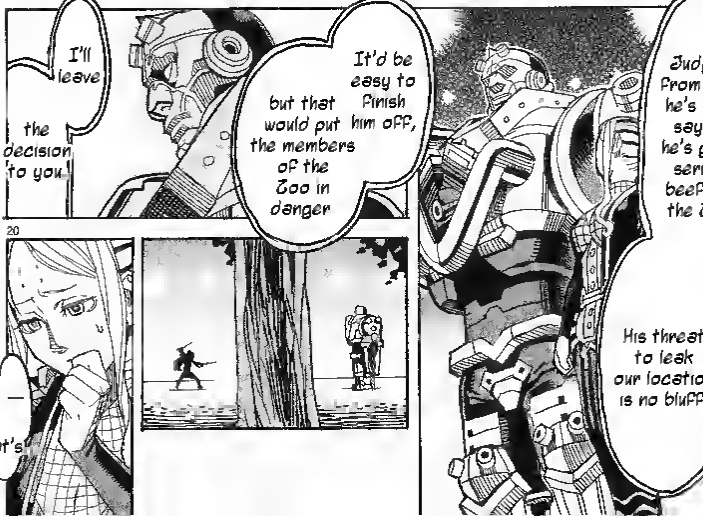
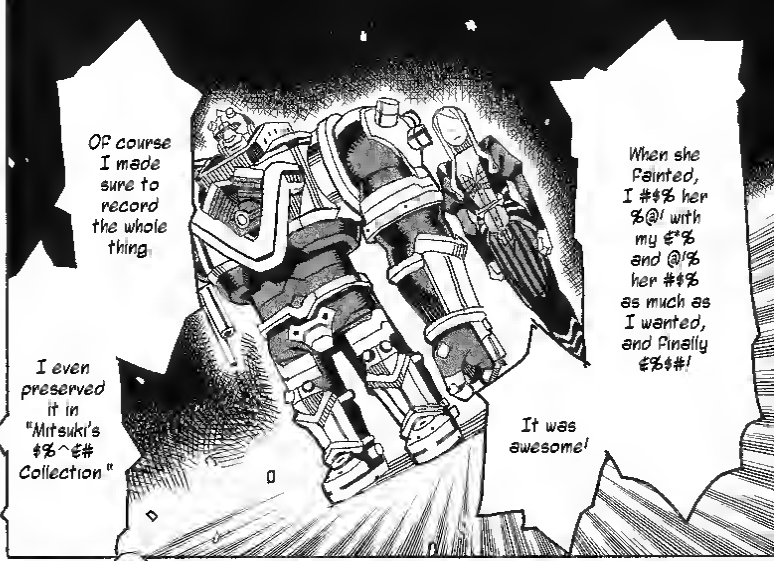
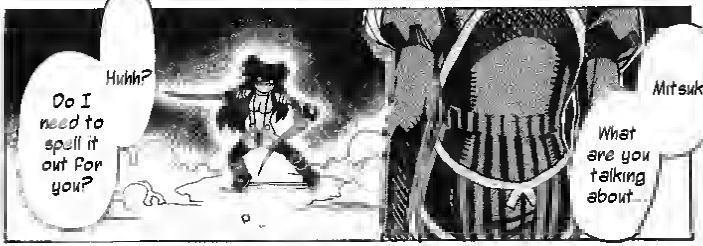

I'll leave the decision to you.
It'd be easy to finish him off, but that would put the members of the Zoo in danger
Judging from what he's been saying, he's got a serious beef with the Zoo
His threat to leak our location is no bluff.
—
That's it.

Anyway, you can't do a damn thing!
You can't even protect a single person!
Whatcha mumblin' about?
—?!
Lemme make it clear. It's not just netPegs and frustrated housewives, but depressed chicks too.
The best are women with mental issues who are probably doing net therapy.
I've had all sorts of virtual sex, but you know what was the most arousing?
And out of those, it's the ones who've suffered sexual abuse. I love stirring up their traumas and raping them all over again.
When they're crying and screaming for real. No acting.


Of course I made sure to record the whole thing.
When she fainted, I #$% her %@! with my €*% and @!% her #$% as much as I wanted, and finally €%$#!
I even preserved it in "Mitsuki's $%^€# Collection"
It was awesome!


Huhh?
Do I need to spell it out for you?
Mitsuki.
What are you talking about...

Your oh-so-precious daughter.
I beat her, I raped her. I fucked her up.

That stance wasn't directed toward us
Damn it!
He was provoking Gaur into coming out, so he could kill her in front of our very eyes--
From the very beginning
I told you!
You're not capable of protecting a single person!

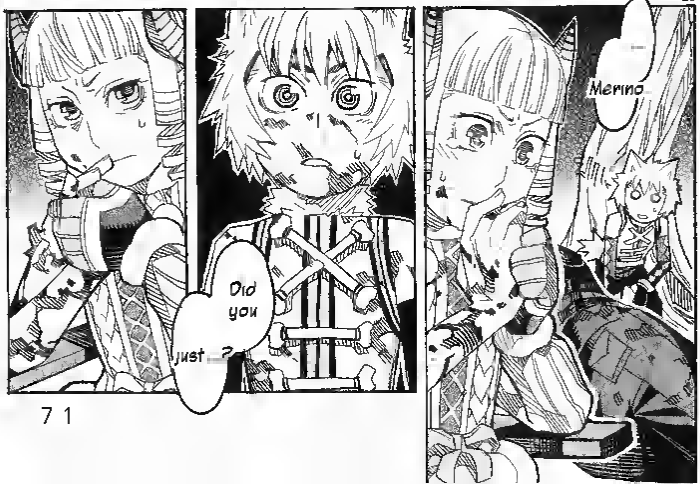
It's hopeless
There's absolutely no way
that I'll make--

ドゴォ
P1

How's Gaun?!
ギリリ

28

29



My goodness
So you've finally calmed down.
Now the question is what to do with you.
This avatar must've been quite expensive to put together.
If you release these bonds and let me go unharmed
I'll leave things as they are, and disappear quietly
30
Awfully bold considering the position you're in.
The same goes for you.
I could leak your location, so you're in the palm of my hand

You got it, don't you?
If you don't comply with my demands, the Zoo is--
?!
ゴゴゴ

You Hurt Gaur.
You hurt her.
Again
32
Unfor-give-able.
Unfor-give-able.
Unfor-give-able.
Ab-so-lute-ly
Un-for-give-a-ble!
Un-for-give-a-ble.

Miss Chloe
What are you...
Ack?!
It's over now,
you're--
Gah!
?!
33
You just caused the end of your little shithole and everything in it.
You'll regret this, Chloe.
There'll be nothing left. You're gonna lose everything.
I'll fuckin' kill you!
Fuckin' kill you all, every last one!
I fuckin' swear!

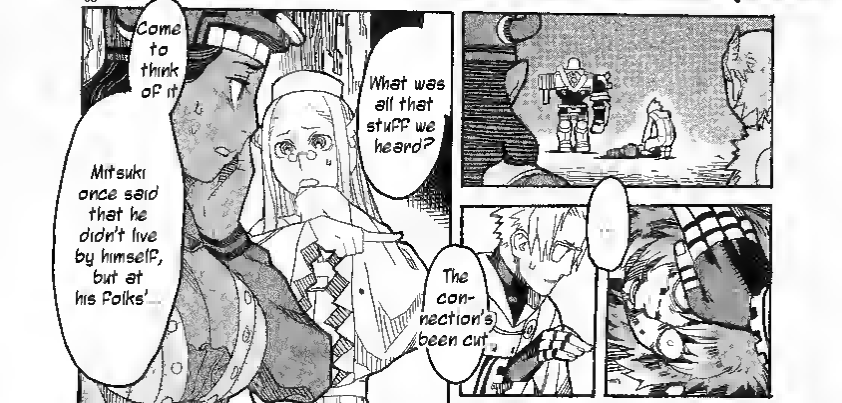
Every-
thing
is your
fault...
Chloe
It's
your
fault
34

Enough.
That's enough
Chloe
35
ど、っ!

Shut up!
Hunnh?!
Don't come in here, old lady!
?!

If you don't get your ass out of this room I'll Fuckin' kill you!
getthePuck outbitchget thePuckout
It's just games, whaddya complaining about?
So what, Fucking bitch?
Kill yourself, Fucking trash!
I'll Fuckin' kill ya!
If you don't get way 'om
I'll Fucking kill you For real
Fuckingkill youFucking killyouFuck
I'll kill you
What the Fuck are you doing
I'll kill you!

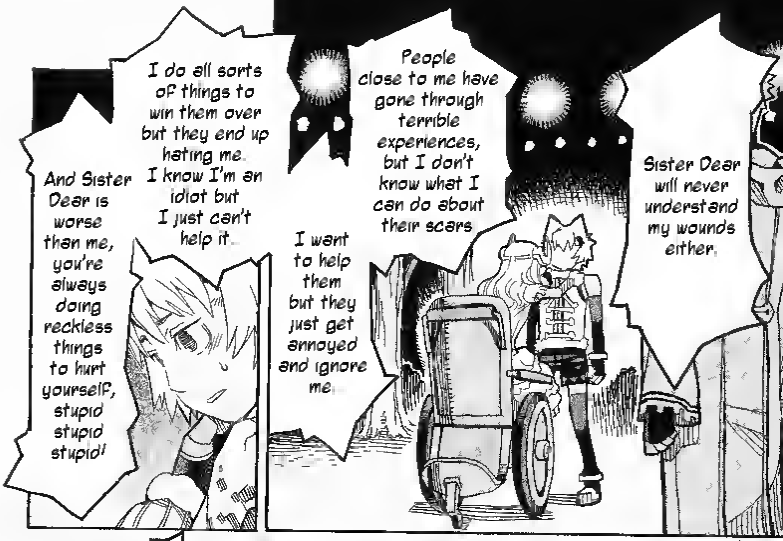
36

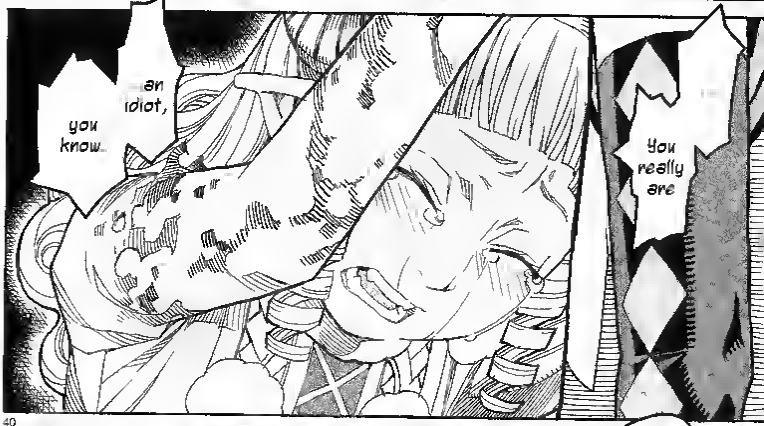

Come to think of it
What was all that stuff we heard?
Mitsuki once said that he didn't live by himself, but at his folks'...
The connection's been cut

My goodness.
What an insufferable bastard...
...
...
37
Aaah
Iiii
Iiiii

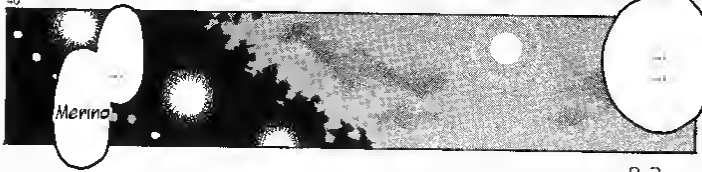
I'm sorry
Gaur
I'm so sorry
Why are you crying?
I couldn't protect you
Gaur
I couldn't protect you and--
But anyway
you'd never understand
That's none
of your business
I

Ho
Hu
39
Wha?!
That's right, I'll never understand!
The wounds on Sister Dear's heart are deep and dark or whatever
And an ordinary petty bourgeois like me could never begin to fathom them!
But are you okay with this?
Letting your wounds get worse and worse
And not saying a word about it to anyone?
I hate and despise the me that's wrapped up in my own suffering.
Compared to other people's issues, my own seem trivial by comparison.
The sorrow and bitterness of people who can't fit in offline-- they bear some truly deep wounds.
But that's something I realized right after I came to the Zoo.


I do all sorts of things to win them over but they end up hating me.
I know I'm an idiot but I just can't help it...
And Sister Dear is worse than me, you're always doing reckless things to hurt yourself, stupid stupid stupid!
People close to me have gone through terrible experiences, but I don't know what I can do about their scars.
I want to help them but they just get annoyed and ignore me.
Sister Dear will never understand my wounds either.


...an idiot, you know...
You really are

40


Merino